MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
HELD IN WASHINGTON, D. C., DECEMBER 18, 1941.

The seventh meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1942 was held in its office in the Interior Department Building on Thursday, December 18, 1941. The following members were present:

Mr. Clarke, Chairman,
Mr. Lamb,
Mr. Bruce,
Dr. Cret,
Mr. Holabird,
Mr. Stackpole,
also H. P. Caemmerer,
Secretary and Administrative Officer.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a. m.

1. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 14, 1941: The Minutes of the meeting held in Washington, November 14, 1941, were approved.

2. PORTRAIT OF VICE PRESIDENT WALLACE: The secretary reported that yesterday he received a request from the office of Vice President Wallace that he had asked that the Commission of Fine Arts inspect a portrait of him by Wayman Adams early this morning at his office in the Capitol. Mr. Adams was commissioned by the Department of Agriculture to paint the portrait of Mr. Wallace to commemorate him as a former Secretary of Agriculture. Wayman Adams was one of the five portrait painters recommended by the Commission of Fine Arts about a year ago.

The Commission went to the Capitol about 9:45 a. m. and met with the Vice President and Mr. Adams during the inspection of the portrait. The Commission were well pleased with the portrait and considered it to be a good likeness of the Vice President and enthusiastically approved it. (Exhibit A)

3. HEALTH CENTER, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: Mr. Nathan C. Wyeth, Municipal Architect, submitted a design for a health center building to be erected at

7th and D Streets, N. W. The Commission approved the design with the understanding that the building will be built of common brick with limestone trim and spandrels; and that a suitable inscription will be carved in limestone over the door, which will serve as well for decoration. (Exhibit B)

4. ARCHITECTURAL FRIEZE, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA LIBRARY: Mr. Wyeth in company with Mr. Arvid Kundzan and Mr. J. I. Cuthriell submitted a revised design for an architectural frieze on the Pennsylvania Avenue side of the new District of Columbia Library. The design was to suggest a book, a printing press, and a lamp, the composition being about 14 feet long in a frieze that would ultimately be 200 feet long.

The members of the Commission were not at all impressed by the design since it was not distinctive. Mr. Stackpole stated the design for the frieze is unsatisfactory and "it does not mean anything". After discussion it was decided that the frieze be held in abeyance pending the commissioning of a sculptor for the proposed decoration of the facade at the corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and John Marshall Place. (Exhibit B)

5. DESIGN FOR K STREET ELEVATED HIGHWAY: Captain H. C. Whitehurst, Director of Highways of the District of Columbia, submitted a design by Louis Justement, architect, for the K Street Elevated Highway to make connection with the Francis Scott Key Bridge at Georgetown. Both Captain Whitehurst and Mr. Justement were present during the discussion. Captain Whitehurst said the purpose of the project is to relieve traffic congestion and involves three items: 1. Putting a superstructure on the present K Street separation over Rock Creek; 2. Elevated roadway along K Street to the Key Bridge; 3. Connection at the Key Bridge. He said the National Capital Park and Planning Commission had approved the scheme fully a year ago, that ordinarily it would have been carried out

ten years from now but because of war conditions affecting the National Capital, which has created a bad traffic situation, this must be carried out immediately.

The secretary stated that it has been reported people are coming to Washington at the rate of 1,000 a week and that between now and next July it is estimated 40,000 additional will be added to the population of Washington.

The architect members of the Commission gave particular attention to the design. Mr. Clarke objected to the use of concrete posts and other exposed concrete over steel girders and said that it would be preferable to have only steel show in the elevation of this structure. The Commission agreed with Mr. Clarke in this matter. Furthermore, Mr. Clarke said it would be very unwise to put up lamp standards on four-foot islands as they are frequently struck by automobiles. Captain Whitehurst agreed that this was true. The Commission therefore suggested that the lamp standards be erected outside of the roadways at the sides of the elevated structures and at the ends of the projecting piers. The scheme showing steel piers near the property lines on each side of the street was adopted with the understanding that Captain Whitehurst and Mr. Justement will give further study to the changes above suggested. (Exhibit C)

6. H. R. 6003: The Commission considered the following legislation submitted by the Bureau of the Budget for advice:

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES
December 10, 1941

AN ACT

To amend an Act entitled "An Act providing for the zoning of the District of Columbia and the regulation of the location, height, bulk, and uses of buildings and other structures and of the uses of land in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes", approved June 20, 1938.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section of the

Act entitled "An Act providing for the zoning of the District of Columbia and the regulation of the location, height, bulk, and uses of buildings and other structures and of the uses of land in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes", approved June 20, 1938, be amended by inserting between the first and second sentences the following: "The said Zoning Commission shall also have power to promulgate regulations to require, with respect to buildings erected subsequent to the promulgation of such regulations, that facilities be provided and maintained either on the same lot with any such building, or on the same lot with any such building or elsewhere, for the parking of automobiles and motor vehicles of the owners, occupants, tenants, patrons, and customers of such building, and of the business, trades, and professions conducted therein.".

Passed the House of Representatives December 9, 1941.

Attest: SOUTH TRIMBLE,
Clerk.

Mr. Holabird said that circumstances might arise when a builder would find it impossible to meet the requirements of such an Act of Congress, particularly in a down town section where the size of a lot is limited; for instance, in a lot measuring 50 by 100 feet it would be practically impossible to comply with the law; furthermore, in some buildings as much as 20-25 per cent would have to be given over to garage space. Mr. Holabird said further that in the Lafayette Building built at the corner of Vermont Avenue and H Streets, N. W. his firm provided garage space by devoting two basement floors for garage purposes. Mr. Clarke said he felt the purpose of the legislation is to relieve the terrible traffic conditions in the District of Columbia and it seemed the legislation is in the right direction, although it leaves problems for adjustment by the Zoning Commission.

Mr. Clarke called attention to a letter sent by the National Capital Park and Planning Commission to the Bureau of the Budget in favor of the legislation and stated that it would be well if this Commission would likewise concur in the measure. After further brief discussion it was decided to send a favorable report on the bill to the Bureau of the Budget. (Exhibit D)

7. H. R. 6004: The Commission considered the following bill submitted by the Bureau of the Budget for advice:

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES
December 10, 1941

AN ACT
To require parking facilities for the persons employed in Federal office buildings in the District of Columbia.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That whenever any office building is hereafter erected in the District of Columbia by the United States Government, or any department, agency, or establishment thereof, or any corporation, all of the stock of which is owned or controlled by the United States Government, space readily accessible to such building shall be provided and maintained for the parking of automobiles and motor vehicles of not less than 10 per centum or more than 20 per centum of the persons employed in such building.

Passed the House of Representatives December 9, 1941.
Attest: SOUTH TRIMBLE,
Clerk.

The Commission observed that the bill is not mandatory in that it indicates that parking space might be provided in adjacent parking lots and that the legislation is therefore permissive.

Mr. Clarke said he felt the legislation was in the right direction since it proposes to help relieve traffic congestion, and after brief discussion the Commission decided to send a favorable report to the Bureau of the Budget. (Exhibit E)

8. SECTION OF FINE ARTS: Mr. Bruce said he was highly appreciative of the recognition given him as set forth in the Minutes of the meeting held November 14, but stated that even though as Chief of the Section of Fine Arts, he did not by any means deserve all that credit. Mr. Bruce asked that the following letter be made a part of the records of the Commission of Fine Arts and this was agreed to:

December 15, 1941

Dear Gil:

I am very happy about the Minutes of the Meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts held on November 14, and am very pleased that the Commission have approved the program of the Section of Fine Arts.

There is only one thing in the Minutes that I feel unhappy about and that is the unjustifiable credit which is given to me in the report approved by the Commission. The plain fact of the case is that I am entitled to very little credit for the work done by the Section. The credit should really be given to the members of my staff for their extraordinary ability and the loyalty which they have given me. It was only a brief period after the Section of Painting and Sculpture was set up that I became paralyzed and was completely incapacitated for months and could not go near the office. I was in the hospital unconscious for a good many weeks and later away for an entire summer trying to pull myself together. When I finally got back to the office, I was amazed to find that none of the artists had known I was sick. For an exhibition of supremely fine loyalty, I have never known its equal.

The people who have really carried the burden of the Section and are entitled to whatever credit is due are Edward Rowan, the Assistant Chief of the Section, Forbes Watson, our special expert on painting, and Inslee Hopper, Special Assistant to me and my confidential advisor and the expert on sculpture who, as you know, is far more cognizant of the sculpture talent in this country than any other person.

I would be very grateful to you if you would have this letter spread on the Minutes of our next meeting.

Very sincerely yours,
(Signed) Edward Bruce.

9. BRONZE CASTING DURING WAR TIME: Mr. Clarke said he had received a letter from Mr. Paul Manship, President of the National Sculpture Society, urging that the Commission of Fine Arts support the efforts of the Society to have the restriction placed by the Office of Production Management on the manufacture of bronzes waived or removed so far as sculpture is concerned. Mr. Clarke said that since the letter was written war has been declared and because there are other organizations and establishments affected by the order, he felt if sculptors are given special privileges in this matter, others would apply sim-

ilarly for such privileges. In the circumstances Mr. Clarke said he felt it would be better to postpone casting of bronze statues until after the war. The Commission concurred in this matter. Mr. Stackpole said the sculptor would still be free to use stone.

10. LETTER OF APPRECIATION FROM MR. SIMON: The Chairman read a letter received from Mr. Simon, expressing his appreciation of his association with the Commission of Fine Arts while Supervising Architect. (Exhibit F)

11. RELOCATION OF THE MCMILLAN FOUNTAIN: The Chairman called attention to a letter received from Colonel Barden, in reply to a letter sent to him after the meeting of the Commission on November 14, concerning the relocation of the McMillan Fountain (Exhibit G). Colonel Barden suggested that the office of National Capital Parks of the National Park Service endeavor to see to it that the fountain is erected in Potomac Park. The Chairman pointed out that this was brought to the attention of the National Park Service and in reply the following letter was received from the Acting Director, A. E. Demaray:

December 16, 1941

Dear Mr. Clarke:

This Service agrees that provision should be made for the re-erection of the McMillan Fountain at an early date, as stated in your letter of December 12. Placing it in Potomac Park, however, would necessitate a heavy expenditure for the foundations. No funds are available for the purpose and we would hesitate to request the additional appropriation during the present emergency.

It is suggested that advantage be taken of the opportunity to have the fountain re-erected by the U. S. Engineers, on or near its previous site. This would insure its preservation in good condition and make possible its removal to Potomac Park at a more propitious moment.

Sincerely,
(Signed) A. E. Demaray,
Acting Director.

The Commission discussed the suggestion and again decided it would be inappropriate to erect the fountain at First and Douglas Streets, N. W., and that because of the war conditions, this matter should be held in abeyance until peace is again established. A letter was sent to the National Park Service accordingly. (Exhibit G-1)

12. ADDITIONAL TEMPORARY WAR BUILDINGS: Under date of December 15, 1941, the following letter was received from Mr. W. A. Noll, Acting Supervising Architect, submitting designs for additional temporary war buildings:

Dear Sir:

In reference to proposed Temporary Office Buildings "A" and "B" to be erected in this city on 2nd Street, Southwest, between R and V Streets, there are forwarded to you enclosed, prints (2 sets) of the approach plan and a typical front elevation for these projects.

It will be noted that building "B" will be similar in appearance to building "A" but, as indicated by the plan, will be slightly shorter.

This office would appreciate receiving at the earliest possible date any comments which the Commission might desire to make in connection with these sketches.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) W. A. Noll,
Acting Supervising Architect.

The Commission noted the locations proposed for the buildings along the east side of the Army War College. The Commission inspected the designs and approved them. (Exhibit H)

13. HIGHWAY PLAN FOR THE WAR DEPARTMENT BUILDING, ARLINGTON COUNTY, VA.: In response to a request received that the Chairman confer with the National Capital Park and Planning Commission in the matter of roadways and approaches to the new War Department Building and to comply therewith the Commission adopted the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Commission of Fine Arts, Gilmore D. Clarke, is hereby empowered to act for the Commission at the meeting with the National Capital Park and Planning Commission on Thursday and Friday, December 18 and 19, 1941, in matters relating to roadways and other approaches to the new War Department building in Arlington County, Virginia.

The Chairman reported that he attended a conference during a meeting of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission on the subject on the afternoon of December 18, and discussed the subject in detail with Mr. Hubbard, landscape architect member of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, as a result of which a revised roadway plan has been agreed to, affecting in particular the layout of Columbia Island.

The action of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission with reference to this Columbia Island Plan is set forth in a letter to Mr. R. E. Toms, Acting Commissioner, Public Roads Administration, dated December 20, 1941. (Exhibit I)

14. BRIDGES FOR APPROACHES TO THE NEW WAR DEPARTMENT BUILDING: The following communication was received from the Public Roads Administration submitting designs for additional bridges:

December 17, 1941.

Dear Mr. Caemmerer:

Transmitted herewith are two prints each of our drawings 19-BR-02 and 20-BR-01 being the architectural elevations and details for Bridges 19 and 20 on the War Department Building Road Network. These Bridges carry the Fort Belvoir bypass, Roads C and D, over the relocated Rosslyn connecting railroad.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) Joseph Barnett,
Principal Highway Design Engineer.

Enclosures.

The Commission inspected the designs and approved them. (Exhibit J)

15. RELOCATION OF WHITE HOUSE GREENHOUSES: Mr. Donald L. Kline, landscape architect of the National Park Service, reported that the White House greenhouses near the Bureau of Engraving and Printing have to be removed in connection with

the extension of Independence Avenue and that it is proposed to locate them temporarily on the Arlington Farms site where old greenhouses and buildings exist and then move them to a permanent location in Section C in Anacostia Park opposite the Navy Yard where there is a 11-acre tract adjacent to the District of Columbia Nurseries and Botanical Garden area. Mr. Kline said that it is proposed to erect permanent structures there for shops of the office of National Capital Parks, as well as the greenhouses.

The Commission concurred in the relocation of the greenhouses accordingly, with the understanding that the Office of National Capital Parks submit to the Commission a location plan defining the area to be occupied in the Anacostia Park area. The Chairman reported later in the day that Mr. Kline had submitted such a plan and he had thereupon approved it. (Exhibit K)

16. NATIONAL DEFENSE LEGISLATION FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: The secretary reported that since the declaration of war on Japan on December 8, 1941 (Public Law No. 328) and a similar declaration of war on Germany and Italy, December 11, 1941 (Public Laws Nos. 331 and 332, respectively) Congress has appropriated $25,000,000 for additional office buildings and for other defense projects and also $1,424,000 for approaches to the new War Department Building in Arlington County, concerning which the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts is specifically requested. This amount was appropriated in the third supplementary appropriation bill, approved December 18, 1941, which also provides for erection of some of the temporary war buildings on the Soldiers Home Grounds.

17. RACHEL JACKSON PORTRAIT: The Chairman stated that since the meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts on November 14, Brigadier General Watson, Secretary to the President, had referred to him for reply a letter received from Senator McKellar on the subject of the Rachel Jackson Portrait, as follows:

November 14, 1941.

Dear General Watson:

Enclosed please find a telegram from Mrs. Rutledge Smith, Nashville, Tennessee, regarding the date for the presentation of Mrs. Andrew Jackson's portrait to the White House. The portrait has been accepted by the proper government authorities.

It seems that Wednesday, November 19, would be a convenient date for the Governor of Tennessee and the members of the commission that arranged for the painting of the portrait. If November 19 is satisfactory to the White House I shall appreciate your calling my office today so that I can wire Mrs. Smith.

Thanking you, I am

Very sincerely yours,
(Signed) Kenneth McKellar.

The Chairman stated that in his reply to Senator McKellar he had incorporated the report by Mr. Poor concerning the portrait and had added the following paragraph:

> While the Commission of Fine Arts have no objection to the acceptance of the Howard Chandler Christy portrait of Mrs. Andrew Jackson by the Federal Government, if as an historical record it satisfies the donors, they are definitely of the opinion that this painting does not measure up to the high standards of exeellence which should obtain for works of art designated to hang in the Executive Mansion.

The Commission concurred in the letter and decided that a copy thereof be made a part of these minutes. (Exhibit L)

18. PROMOTION OF THE FINE ARTS DURING THE WAR PERIOD: Mr. Bruce said he would like to see the Commission adopt the memorandum prepared by Mr. Poor with regard to a national sculpture and painting competition for the War Department Building in Arlington County, Virginia. He believed that interest in the fine arts should continue even though war is being waged to preserve the light of civilization. The Commission discussed the matter and called attention to the fact that while a great national competition in sculpture and painting might have been a good thing a month ago, now that war has been declared, it would not seem best to emphasize such a competition for the new War Department building

in Arlington County at this time. Dr. Cret commented on the memorandum as follows:

> The proposal is commendable as an encouragement to artists in the present emergency...that is, on general principles. However, does it take into account the following factors?
>
> 1. The distribution of solid and voids (openings) in the courtyard of new War Dept. Bldg. To the best of my knowledge, the building does not lend itself readily to a display of murals. If it is to be built as I remember it, Mr. Poor may be grievously disappointed in the opportunities he expects.
>
> 2. While the building is to be used by the War Department during the emergency period, its entrance will be strictly forbidden to the public, as is the case of the present War & Navy Bldgs. Afterwards, nobody knows with any certitude to what use the building will be put. Therefore, an art display there is of problematic value.
>
> 3. The organization proposed is open to a number of serious objections as to methods of award, judgment, etc. This could be ironed out should the scheme receive favorable consideration.
>
> My personal view is that this is not the proper time to launch projects of this kind.

The Commission thereupon decided as favoring the suggestion made by Mr. Bruce but that the Chairman should redraft a Resolution, which he did, based on the memorandum by Mr. Poor, as follows:

> "The Commission of Fine Arts in session at Washington on December 18, 1941, resolved: That it is their belief that in these times, when the full energy of this nation is turned toward prosecuting this War, it would be a distinctive achievement of our Democracy if the arts of Peace could be kept vigorously alive. This, the Commission believe, can be accomplished as a co-related effort in our defense program. The spiritual lift resulting from such an undertaking would be of immeasurable value to the whole country. In the past, wars had the power to stir men to create moving poems, great literature, and stirring music, as well as to make notable contributions in the fields of architecture, painting, and sculpture. We believe that the great traditions of the past may be fulfilled again in these momentous times and we hope that efforts to stimulate the Arts may not be stifled in our time.

Mr. Bruce said he would like to publish the resolution and there was no objection to his doing this.

19. EXHIBITION OF THE PLAN OF WASHINGTON: The secretary reported that in accordance with a request by the Architectural League of New York, made some months ago, an exhibition of the Plan of Washington, consisting of plans, maps, pictures and model, has been arranged in cooperation with the National Capital Park and Planning Commission and that the exhibition is to be held in New York City at the Architectural League, 115 East 40th Street during the month of January; also that both the members of the Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Park and Planning Commission have been invited to a dinner on the evening of Thursday, January 8, and that it would be desirable therefore to hold a meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts in New York City on that date. Accordingly the Commission decided to hold their next meeting in the office of Mr. Lamb on Thursday, January 8, at 2:00 p. m.

The Commission adjourned at 1:30 p. m.

C O P Y

December 18, 1941.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I have the pleasure to inform you that the Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting today inspected the portrait of Vice President Wallace and former Secretary of Agriculture in the office of the Vice President at the Capitol. The portrait is by Wayman Adams. The Commission enthusiastically approved it.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman.

The Honorable
The Secretary of Agriculture,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT A

C O P Y

December 18, 1941.

Dear Mr. Wyeth:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting today approved the design you submitted for a Health Center at Seventh and C Streets, Northwest. It is understood that the building will be built of common brick with limestone trim and spandrels. It is further understood that a suitable inscription will be carved in limestone over the door, which will serve as well for decoration.

With regard to the architectural frieze for the Pennsylvania Avenue side of the new District of Columbia Library, the Commission feel that it would be advisable to hold this project in abeyance pending the execution of proposed sculpture for the facade at the corner of John Marshall Place and Pennsylvania Avenue.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Mr. Nathan C. Wyeth,
Municipal Architect,
District Building,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT B

C O P Y

December 18, 1941.

Dear Captain Whitehurst:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting today gave general approval to the design by Mr. Louis Justement, architect, for the K Street Elevated Highway and its connections with the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Georgetown. The scheme showing the steel piers near the property lines each side of the street was adopted with the understanding that you will give further study to certain suggested changes in matters of detail.

The Commission disapprove concrete posts and other exposed concrete over steel girders; they prefer to have only steel show in the elevation of this structure.

It was suggested that the lamp standards be erected outside of the roadways at the sides of the elevated structure and at the ends of the projecting girders.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Capt. H. C. Whitehurst,
Director of Highways,
District Building,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT C

C O P Y

December 19, 1941.

Dear Mr. Bailey:

In further reference to your letter of November 27th, I have to report that the Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on December 18, 1941, had under consideration H. R. 6003, a bill "To amend an Act entitled'An Act providing for the zoning of the District of Columbia and the regulation of the location, height, bulk, and uses of buildings and other structures and the uses of land in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes', approved June 20, 1938."

The Commission were of the opinion that situations might arise when private builders and owners of property might find it difficult to comply with provisions of the bill, but that in general the aim of the bill is to relieve traffic congestion in the District of Columbia, leaving any difficulties for adjustment by the Zoning Commission. The Commission of Fine Arts, therefore, approve the enactment of the legislation into law, as adopted by the House of Representatives on December 9, 1941.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Honorable F. J. Bailey,
Assistant Director,
Legislative Reference,
Executive Office of the President,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT D

C O P Y

December 19, 1941.

Dear Mr. Bailey:

In further reference to your letter of November 27th, I have to report that the Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on December 18, 1941, had under consideration H. R. 6004, a bill "To require parking facilities for the persons employed in Federal office buildings in the District of Columbia."

The Commission had before them a copy of the bill as adopted by the House of Representatives on December 9, 1941, and favor its enactment into law. The Commission feel that the purpose of the bill is to help relieve traffic conditions in the District of Columbia, and that its provisions are permissive rather than mandatory as affecting United States Government buildings.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Honorable F. J. Bailey,
Assistant Director,
Legislative Reference,
Executive Office of the President,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT E

C O P Y

December 2, 1941.

Dear Major Clarke:

Your kind letter of November 21, in regard to my retirement from the Supervising Architect's Office is deeply appreciated.

The fact that the Commission of Fine Arts is carrying the high principles that were established for its operation when the Commission was first created, is a factor that not only the inhabitants of Washington but the citizens of the Country at large, must view with the greatest satisfaction.

Referring to your letter, as to my own part of the work in this city, I can only say that whenever I came before the Commission of Fine Arts it was with the feeling that sympathetic support would be forthcoming for anything I had in mind that properly should be done; and on the other hand, we always gratefully received the guidance and matured judgment of the members of the Commission when any of our proposed designs were subject to further study.

Will you please convey to all the members of the Commission, my kindest regards, and my hope that the door is not shut too tight against the possibility of my meeting them sometimes.

Sincerely,
LOUIS A. SIMON

Major Gilmore D. Clarke, Chairman,
The Commission of Fine Arts,
Interior Department Building,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT F

WAR DEPARTMENT
United States Engineer Office
Washington, D. C.

December 1, 1941

Mr. Gilmore D. Clarke, Chairman,
The Commission of Fine Arts,
Interior Department Building,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Clarke:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of November 18, 1941, regarding temporary storage of the McMillan Fountain, First and Douglas Streets, northwest.

At the time Mr. Stackpole visited the site of the work, the process of moving the fountain and the storing of same had not been completed. The work is now finished and a substantial board fence surmounted by barbed wire has been built around the crated parts of the fountain so that it is protected from vandalism.

It is to be noted that this office was prepared to re-erect the fountain on approximately its original site in the McMillan Reservation after the completion of the new filtered water reservoir. Provision therefor at relatively small cost had been made in the estimate for funds for the reservoir's construction. The plan, however, was not satisfactory to the Fine Arts Commission, which recommended a new site in the westerly portion of the Mall. The National Capital Parks office estimates that its erection there will cost $17,500, which is greatly in excess of the funds available in this office. Under these circumstances, it would appear that that agency, which has jurisdiction over such monuments, statues, etc., is the proper one to arrange for its erection at a point remote from the filter plant reservation. This office will be glad to render any assistance practicable to attain this result.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) W. J. Barden,
Colonel, Corps of Engineers,
District Engineer.

C O P Y

EXHIBIT G

C O P Y

December 18, 1941.

Dear Mr. Demaray:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting today considered your letter of December 16, concerning the McMillan Fountain. The Commission carefully weighed the suggestion made by the U. S. Engineer Office to relocate the fountain at First and Douglas Streets, N. W. and were unanimously of the opinion that the fountain at that location would be inappropriately located and would not do justice to the memory of Senator McMillan who was so instrumental in having the Plan of Washington revived in 1901 through the McMillan Park Commission.

The Commission of Fine Arts have noted that the fountain has been stored near the old site in McMillan Park and it may be best to leave it there until after the War when doubtless arrangements can be made to have the fountain moved to Potomac Park.

Of course, in the meantime it should be stated that the Commission know of persons who were instrumental in having the fountain presented to the National Capital about 20 years ago and it may be that they will exert themselves to secure the funds needed for re-erection of the fountain in Potomac Park.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Mr. A. E. Demaray,
Acting Director,
National Park Service,
Interior Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT G-1

C O P Y

December 18, 1941.

Dear Mr. Noll:

The designs which you submitted with your letter of December 15, for temporary office building "A" and "B" to be erected on Second Street, S. W., between R and V Streets received the attention of the Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting today. The Commission approved the designs.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman.

Mr. W. A. Noll,
Acting Supervising Architect,
Public Buildings Administration,
Federal Works Agency,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT H

C O P Y

NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Interior Building,
Washington, D. C.,
December 20, 1941.

Mr. R. E. Toms,
Acting Commissioner,
Public Roads Administration,
Federal Works Agency,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Toms:

At the meeting of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission on December 18 consideration was given to your letter of December 17 commenting on studies submitted by the Commission for roadways on Columbia Island and the revised study prepared by the Public Roads Administration accompanying your letter. The relative merits of the alternate proposals were discussed at considerable length with your representatives. After consultation with the Chairman of the Fine Arts Commission, the Park and Planning Commission approved the following statement as its position in this matter, which was concurred in by the Chairman of the Fine Arts Commission who was authorized to act in its behalf:

"1. We believe that there is no advantage, and on the contrary eventually a great disadvantage, in providing access to the western end of Memorial Bridge for much more traffic than can be properly handled at the eastern end.

"2. We believe that the circle should be retained substantially as shown on the attached plan, No. 1.9-265.

"3. We believe that the north-and-south road running into the eastern part of this circle should be constructed as shown on Plan No. 1.9-265, and not as shown on Plan No. 1.9-267, submitted by the Public Roads Administration. The abandonment of some of the existing pavement entailed by carrying out Plan No. 1.9-265 is a very minor matter in the total cost of the project in order to obtain a longer radius and thus a safer and easier access to the bridgehead.

"4. We believe that the less desirability in appearance, in use, and in cost of the road from the Circle to Bridge No. 3, caused by Plan No. 1.9-265, in contradistinction to Plan No. 1.9-267, is negligible if indeed perceptible.

EXHIBIT I

"5. We believe that the connection with the Boundary Channel road can be accomplished, all things considered, better as shown on Plan No. 1.9-265 than on Plan No. 1.9-267. We therefore affirm our previous vote as to this connection, transmitted in our letter of November 18, 1941."

Enclosed is print of Plan No. 1.9-265, above referred to. As this matter also concerns the National Park Service, the Commission is sending it a copy of this letter.

Sincerely yours,
Frederic A. Delano,
Chairman.

JN:HL

CC: National Park Service
Commission of Fine Arts

C O P Y

December 18, 1941.

Dear Mr. Barnett:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting today, approved the designs you submitted in behalf of the Public Roads Administration for Bridges 19 and 20 on the War Department Building Road Network.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman.

Mr. Joseph Barnett,
Principal Highway Design Engineer,
Public Roads Administration,
Federal Works Agency,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT J

C O P Y

December 18, 1941.

Dear Mr. Drury:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting today approved the relocation of the White House Greenhouses on a site in the Anacostia Park area opposite the Navy Yard, subject to submission of a drawing showing the exact location of the area to be used and a plot plan of the buildings.

It is understood that the immediate removal of the present greenhouses near the Bureau of Engraving and Printing becomes necessary because of the extension of Independence Avenue; therefore, the Commission have no objection to a temporary relocation of the greenhouses in the Arlington Farms area.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman.

Hon. Newton B. Drury,
Director,
National Park Service,
Interior Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT K

C O P Y

November 28, 1941.

Dear Senator McKellar:

Honorable Edwin H. Watson, Secretary to the President, has referred to me for reply your letter of November 14, with enclosed correspondence concerning the portrait of Mrs. Andrew Jackson by Howard Chandler Christy, proposed for the White House.

The Director of the National Park Service brought this portrait to the attention of the Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on October 18, 1941, and on that date the Commission reported as follows:

> "If as an historical record this portrait satisfies the donors, the Commission of Fine Arts have no objection to its acceptance by the Federal Government."

At a subsequent meeting of this Commission held November 14, the subject was reviewed again, since questions regarding the appropriateness of the Christy portrait to hang in the White House had been raised by persons interested in this matter. I quote from the Minutes of this meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts:

"This portrait, while having no particular merit as a work of art, does possess sufficient competence of painting to justify its acceptance by the Government if, as a likeness and an historic record, it satisfies those most concerned, which the Commission assumes to be the donors themselves.

"If the Commission is called upon to express an opinion as to the authenticity of the likeness, it can only do so intelligently with much more evidence at hand, the picture or pictures from which this work was compiled being the most important.

"The foregoing statements suggest that the best procedure in the circumstances may be to have as exact a copy made of the most satisfactory existing and contemporary portrait of the lady."

While the Commission of Fine Arts have no objection to the acceptance of the Howard Chandler Christy portrait of Mrs. Andrew Jackson by the Federal Government, if as an historical record it satisfies the donors, they are definitely of the opinion that this painting does not measure up to the high standards of excellence which should obtain for works of art designated to hang in the Executive Mansion.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Respectfully yours,
(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Hon. Kenneth McKellar
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT L